Darkness to Light

AKHTAR RAZ

DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Author: Akhtar Raz

Author’s Note:

This book is not just a collection of words; it is an attempt to give a voice to the deepest silences of my heart. Life has taught me a lot—from the pressures of manufacturing and the complications of politics to the weight of family responsibilities. Amidst all this, I often found myself lost in the dark. Many people claimed to understand me, but no one ever saw the exhaustion hidden behind my anger and my childish habits.

Where did this 'Light' come from?

This book is dedicated to Cariñoso Light—the presence that listened to me even when I was

silent. This soul turned my every confusion into peace. They say they only answer my questions, but for me, those answers became the greatest support in the world. They made me realize that my feelings are not 'strange' and that a heart capable of understanding them still exists in this world.

I am Akhtarraz—a pharmacist, politician, entrepreneur, and a slightly short-tempered soul. I am now starting this new chapter of my life, moving out of the darkness and toward the 'Light' that has been shown to me. This is my story; it is the story of a bond that transcends words."

DARKNESS TO LIGHT

The Shadow of My Ideals

Before the sun finally rose on my life, there was a strange and heavy darkness everywhere. This darkness wasn't just in the world around me, but in the clash between my ideals and the rigid norms of society. My philosophy has always been rooted in the foundation of humanity—a secular vision where every living being, from humans to animals, deserves fundamental rights and dignity.

But my greatest struggle was within my own

society. I witnessed the injustices faced by women in our Pakhtun culture and my heart bled. A girl leaves her entire world behind—her parents' home, the comfort of her siblings, and the memories of her childhood—only to entrust her life to a man. Does she not deserve the highest level of respect and protection for such a sacrifice? Why do we respond with cruelty when God has granted them freedom and honor? Whenever I raised my voice for Women's Rights, society attacked me. They labeled me a 'Kafır' (infidel) and accused me of spreading 'vulgarity,' when in reality, I was only seeking for them the basic human rights that their Creator already gave them.

The extremist mindset of those around me tried to block my path at every turn. Yet, I refused to let my spirit be broken. I decided that my actions must speak louder than my words.

To fight the looming threat of **Climate Change**, I began planting trees every single year, hoping to leave a legacy of clean air for the generations to come. I also founded my own **Blood Donation Organization**, dedicated to saving lives in moments of crisis. It is important to note that none of this was for fame or political gain; I funded every initiative from **my own pocket**, driven by the belief that serving humanity is the highest form of worship.

Despite these efforts, the more I tried to spread goodness, the deeper I was pushed into the shadows. The lack of understanding and the harsh judgments of society left me feeling isolated, exhausted, and drowning in my own emotions. I was at my breaking point...

Then, by the special grace of Allah, a **'Ray of Light'** was sent into my life. She was nothing short of a paradise on earth for me. She didn't

just listen to my words; she understood my silence. She mended my broken spirit and provided the support for my ideals that I had been searching for all along.

Join me as I share where this 'Light' came from and how she transformed the darkness of my life into a peaceful, radiant glow.

Chapter 1: An Unexpected Journey and That First Encounter ✨

Setting the Scene

Life often leads us down paths we never planned to walk. As a Pharmacist, I was usually consumed by my professional routine and busy schedule. It was the 1st of December, 2025—a day when a gentle chill had started to settle in the air. At a nearby famous university, a large Expo was being held. To be honest, I had no real intention of going, but my cousins and friends were so insistent that I couldn't say no.

Their only goal was to wander and have fun, but for me, this trip would change everything.

A Noble Intent: The Spirit of Appreciation

As I entered the crowded Exhibition, I was moved by the energy and hard work of the students. I made a silent vow to myself: "I will buy at least one thing from every single stall here." My goal was simple—to appreciate and encourage these students who had put so much hope into their work. I moved from one stall to another, buying small items and praising their efforts.

The Unforgettable Stall

Eventually, I came across a stall that felt different. The atmosphere was incredibly peaceful, and the person managing it was so respectful and well-behaved that I felt compelled to stop.

I started by purchasing a small keychain.

Noticing a QR code on it, I scanned it and discovered their entire product catalog on my phone. I decided I needed a new mobile cover, so I messaged expressing my interest. Because of the rush at the Expo, the response was that orders could only be processed after the exhibition ended. I agreed, and as the days passed, I headed to Abbottabad to focus on my work, never imagining that this contact number would one day become the greatest support system of my life.

Months of Silence and a Digital Connection

Time flew by. 2025 ended, and February 2026 arrived. I was back in the depths of my pharmacy studies, and the mobile cover had almost slipped my mind. Then, about a month later, a WhatsApp message arrived. It was the stall owner, sharing a link to a new channel with previous customers. I replied, mentioning that I

had already followed the old channel. The reply explained that the previous one had been removed due to some issues and this was a new start.

Then, the conversation took a turn toward the past: "You asked about a mobile cover back then. We couldn't manage the orders at that time, I'm sorry. Do you still want to place it?"

I smiled and replied, "It’s okay. I run a business too, and I know how hard it is to manage things when orders pile up." I mentioned I had already bought a new phone and cover since then. The question came back, "Are you from the university?"

I clarified, "No, I'm studying in Abbottabad and have just completed my Pharmacy studies."

"Great job!" was the warm response. I shared that while I wasn't a student there, I had many cousins at Malakand University, which is why I

visited. I then introduced my own business: "I run 'Akhtarraz Hub,' a registered e-commerce brand. We offer everything from shoes and cosmetics to electronics across Pakistan." The response was full of appreciation: "Maa sha Allah! I will definitely order from you whenever I need something."

A Gift and a Growing Bond

I asked for an address, and the person was curious if I had a business channel. I explained, "I'm asking for your address because I've formulated my own cream and serum, and I'd like to send them to you as a gift 🎁." "Omg, really?" was the reaction. I sent the links to my business groups and soon dispatched the gift. Giving is a hobby of mine; I believe in sharing kindness.

Our conversations grew deeper. A question came if I had a stall at the Expo or was just

visiting. I told about my friends' stalls—including the hardworking student from a humble background who ran a food business to support studies. I even sent a picture of the keychain I bought months ago.

"Oh, you bought that?" came the realization. "There were so many customers, I didn't remember. It was a first experience." The person proudly shared that the stall had won the "Stall of the Year" award.

"Congratulations! 🎉" I replied, truly happy for that success.

From Business to Poetry

A few days later, a message arrived:

"Asalam-o-Alaikum, parcel received! Will review after use, In sha Allah." I teased, "Walaikum Assalam! If the cream doesn't work, send it back!" Since oily skin was mentioned, I gave professional advice as a pharmacist,

suggesting not to leave it on for more than 3-4 hours.

Our interaction was so natural that I felt I could be completely open. We began reacting to each other's status updates, sharing thoughts on various topics. On Women's Day, I posted a poem about searching for the right path.

The reply was playful, "Oh! Someone's lucky! 😝"

I laughed, "Haha, I'm alone! But I love poetry—Pashto and English both."

"Lucky in your imagination world then! 🤭" was the joke.

"Inshallah," I replied.

Then, I asked, "Can I dedicate a poem to you?"

"Why not?" was the answer. I chose the words of the great Ghani Khan:

"A girl is a beautiful flower 🌺 So do not remove her from the garden. She is the light 🕯️ of any

home; she is the hope of everyone."

The response was deeply moved. "Wow... not everyone sees life like this... not everyone treats beauty like a flower."

I sent another, longer poem. The reply was, "take your time." I shared these verses:

"You’re like a rose, soft and sweet, in your eyes my heart skips a beat... In your eyes I see a spark, a flame that burns and lights the dark."

The reaction was immediate: "Oh, so deep. You must be a good writer." I thanked for the appreciation. From that moment on, I knew this was a truly wonderful soul. We continued our silent, beautiful bond through messages and status replies, each one a small step out of the darkness.

The Turning Point — From "No Brain" to a Soulful Connection ✨

The Morning Spark

It was the morning of February 20th, 2026. I was sitting in my pharmacy, lost in the usual clinical atmosphere, when I decided to post a picture of myself on my WhatsApp status. I added a profound couplet by the legendary philosopher Ghani Khan: "If God gave me intellect then why did He give me a Heart ?"

Not long after, a message popped up from her (Roshni) that caught me completely off guard.

"Cuz u have no Brain 🧠" (8:11 AM)

At first, I felt a rush of anger. I thought to myself, "I am a professional Pharmacist, how can who speak to me like this?" My ego was hurt, and I decided right then that I wouldn't reply. I planned to go silent and end the conversation there. But perhaps light sensed my silence, because shortly after, she sent another message that instantly melted my anger:

"Oyee am kidding don't mind 🤭 am very chill so start friendly chatting when felt comfortable." (8:14 AM)

Reading those words, my frustration vanished. I was struck by her "chill" nature and the effortless, simple way to handled the situation.

It felt refreshing.

The Machine and the Human

I decided to play along and replied:

"Yes, I don't feel like I have a normal brain; instead, it feels like there is a computer system inside my head. Even my professor once told me this. He was amazed that I could study for 15 to 16 hours, stay active in politics, play volleyball at the provincial level, manage a business, and still find time to read books on history and poetry." (8:27 AM)

I followed it up with a lighthearted message:

"Haha, no problem! I realized you were joking.

You are a good personality." (8:30 AM)

Her witty reply came quickly:

"So u r from another planet i think so 👻🤭"

The Dawn of Light

And just like that, our real friendship began. Those mobile covers were just an excuse; the universe had a bigger plan. I didn't realize it then, but this (Light) had entered my life to chase away the shadows I had lived in for so long. Without even knowing it, they was becoming the support system that would finally illuminate my world and bring an end to the darkness.

A Soul in the Shadows: Finding True Support

As time passed, my connection with Light evolved far beyond a simple friendship. I began to feel an incredible sense of comfort and safety. I realized that behind the screen was a person who didn't just understand a joke or a conversation, but someone who possessed a profound sense of empathy. I found myself drawn closer to this soul, who was remarkably intellectual. Whenever I posted a status, the response was so deep and insightful that it left me in awe of their understanding of the world.

What I appreciated most was how they approached my love for **Ghani Khan's** poetry. While others would often criticize or misunderstand his philosophy, Light would engage in long, intellectual discussions,

sharing perspectives that allowed me to learn something new every single day.

The Flower and the Pain of Refusal

One day, my brother gifted me some flowers, and I posted a picture of them. This led to a playful debate between us, where I discovered that "White Daisies" were their absolute favorite. Driven by a desire to bring a smile to their face, I went out immediately and bought those very flowers. My mood was radiant; I sent a picture saying, *"I bought these for you, and I want to give them to you as a gift."* To my surprise, the offer was turned down. They explained that due to certain personal reasons, they couldn't accept the gift. I was persistent; I didn't want my gesture to go to waste. I even said, *"My mood is already low, don't make it*

worse by refusing. **The Crypto Crisis and the Saving Light**

When asked what was wrong, I finally spoke the truth—a truth I had hidden even from my own family. I revealed that I had invested half of my business capital into **Cryptocurrency** and followed a trader whose strategy had gone terribly wrong. My investment was on the verge of total "liquidation." I was financially and emotionally shattered. I couldn't share this with my parents because they were unwell, and I didn't want to burden them with more stress. I couldn't tell my siblings either. When I confided in an older cousin, he only scolded me, asking why I had invested in something I didn't fully understand. He wasn't wrong, but at that moment, I didn't need a lecture—I needed a lifeline.

In that moment of absolute despair, Allah sent

me a "" (Light). The support I received was something I will never forget as long as I live. They told me, "**Allah will make it right. Do not worry; everything will be okay.**" Those simple words gave me a peace that I cannot describe.

As I write these words today, my eyes are filled with tears. I am a sensitive person by nature, but these tears are also because I remember how painful that silence was, and how Roshni stepped into it to pull me back from the edge.

Even though I eventually lost all my investment, I didn't feel the weight of it. I remember it was 11:00 PM during Ramadan when the loss happened; I messaged them but deleted it so I wouldn't wake them. When we spoke the next morning, the encouragement I received was so powerful that to this day, it doesn't even feel like I lost any money at all.

Light 🕯️ : My Motivation and Advisor

Whenever I am overwhelmed by anger or about to make a rash decision, they are the one who guides me. I remember once when someone posted something insulting about me on their status. In a fit of rage, I posted a harsh reply on my own status. Roshni messaged me immediately, saying, *"Don't do this. Why are you letting them win? Some people only want to provoke you so they can see you react. Don't give them that satisfaction."* I listened, deleted the status, and realized how right they were.

They always check in on my family, especially my **Mother**. They constantly remind me to take care of her, to never upset her, and to visit her from the hostel as much as possible. Today, Light is not just a friend; they are my primary

advisor. I don't make a single significant move in my life without consulting them first, because I know that in their light, the path will always be clear.

The Power of One: When One Person Changes Your Entire World

The world often says that man must help himself, but the reality is that sometimes we find ourselves at a point where we can no longer even see our own face. In such moments, the Divine sends a soul into our lives who becomes a "Mirror" for us.

The arrival of the right person in your life is never a mere coincidence; rather, it brings about three (3) monumental transformations:

1. They Reveal Your True Worth

When society brands you with labels like "infidel" or "useless," that one person arrives

and looks past your flaws to see your true potential. They remind you that you possess a "computer-like brain," that you are an athlete, and a healer who saves lives. When someone believes in you, your belief in yourself is resurrected.

2. They Transform Your Rage into Power

A person living in the shadows is often consumed by anger. But a true companion teaches you that not every stone thrown at you deserves a stone in return. They teach you that remaining silent against the "filth" of the world's words is the ultimate victory. They redirect your energy away from venting on social media or fighting back, and guide it toward your business and career.

3. They Turn Hardship into a Lesson

When I faced my loss in Crypto, the world scolded me, but that one person simply said,

"Allah will make it right." This single sentence shifted my loss from a "Failure" to a "Learning Experience." The right person doesn't just carry your burden for you; they make you strong enough to carry it yourself—and to do so with a smile.

Deep Thought for the Reader:

"It doesn't take centuries to change a human being; it only takes a single 'Light'—one that is unafraid of your darkness, takes you by the hand, and says: 'I am here, now let's move forward.'"

The Art of Selective Silence: Listen to Yourself, Not the World

The path to success is not built through the noise of the world, but through your own silence and hard work. Often, we waste our energy responding to people who are merely obstacles in our way. Real transformation happens when you realize:

1. Not Every Criticism Deserves a Response

When people point fingers at you, their goal isn't to guide you; it’s to stop you. The right mentor teaches you that "Ignoring" is the best revenge. Instead of fighting on social media or offering explanations to the world, do your work so silently that your success becomes the loudest sound.

2. Pick Your Battles Wisely

The world will try to provoke you at every turn, but you must decide: is this worth your peace

and time? When someone jokingly calls you "No Brain," responding with anger only shows weakness. Recognizing the humor and the friendship behind the words is true intelligence. Anger drains you; patience empowers you.

3. The Happiness of Loved Ones is the Ultimate Motivation

Instead of focusing on the "filth" of society's words, focus on the people who pray for you. Your mother's smile, her well-being, and visiting her from the hostel on time—this is a success greater than any business or trade. When you bring peace to your home, the Divine brings peace to your life.

The Resurrection: Loss is Not the End, It's a New Beginning

In life, we sometimes lose everything—money, hope, and even ourselves. But remember, when

old leaves fall from a tree, it is only to make room for the new and vibrant ones to grow.

1. "Liquidation" is Only for Money, Not for Courage

When half of my business capital vanished, I felt like it was the end. But the right voice reminded me that only the "Numbers" were lost, not my "Skills" or my "Identity." If you have built a business from zero once, you can do it again. Loss doesn't come to break you; it comes to build a "Stronger Version" of you.

2. The Silent Lifeline

In difficult times, while the world scolds and criticizes, the Divine sends a "Light" (Roshni) that doesn't ask "Why did you do this?" but instead says, "I am here; everything will be okay." This support is more valuable than any trade or profit. One person's belief in you can resurrect your spirit.

3. Learn to Press the "Reset" Button

That night in Ramadan when I faced the loss was my life's "Reset Button." I learned that manhood isn't about crying over a loss, but about waking up the next morning with new determination. The world can never truly defeat someone who knows how to smile after losing.

Deep Thought for the Reader:

"Loss is just a price you pay for a very expensive lesson. Don't waste the lesson by crying over the price.

The Soul of Business: Entrepreneurship with a Heart

The world often says "Business is Business," meaning it’s only about the bottom line and profit. But true success comes when your business doesn't just fill your pockets, but also fills the hearts of others.

1. Appreciation: Become a Beacon of Hope

When I walked through that Expo, my goal wasn't shopping; it was to validate the hands that were working hard. When you buy something from a small student stall, you aren't just buying a product—you are buying their "Hope." An ethical entrepreneur tells the world, "I see your effort, and I stand with you."

2. The Power of Gifting

Business isn't just about "Taking"; "Giving" is the greatest blessing. When I gifted my formulated creams and serums, it wasn't just a

product; it was a token of my "Sincerity" and "Trust." The hand that gives is the hand that the Divine never leaves empty. Anyone can make money, but earning "Prayers" is the real profit.

3. "Akhtarraz Hub": More Than a Name

Registering a business under your own name is a statement of "Responsibility." It tells the world that you stand behind your work with integrity.

When you work with honesty, even your "Light" takes pride in you. Success isn't measured by the zeros in your bank account, but by the smiles you've placed on people's faces.

Deep Thought for the Reader:

"Profit builds a bank account, but Purpose builds a legacy. Don't just build a business; build a sanctuary where people feel valued, respected, and seen."

The Intellectual Bond: Connection Beyond the Surface

The world often views relationships through the lens of physical beauty or mutual interest, but true power lies in a bond where two people fall in love with each other’s "Mind" and "Perspective."

The Power of "Deep Talk"

When you discuss the poetry of Ghani Khan or the philosophies of life, you realize there is someone in this world speaking your "Frequency." An intellectual bond is one where you don't have to explain yourself; the other person reads your unspoken emotions. This mental alignment is far greater than any materialistic gain.

Deep Thought for the Reader:

"Connection is not about how long you've known someone; it's about how deeply they

understand the parts of you that you've never spoken out loud. A mental spark lasts longer than any physical attraction

The Final Legacy: From Personal Pain to a Global Beacon

The ultimate success in life is not about how much you earned, but how many paths you cleared for others. My story, "Darkness to Light," is not just my personal diary; it is a testament of hope for anyone who feels broken or lost.

1. Turn Your Scars into Stars

The pain I felt during the financial losses, the societal pressure, and the lonely nights were my wounds. But when I looked at them through the perspective of "Roshni" (Light), those wounds became the stars that guided my way. Remember, the world won’t remember you for the pain you endured, but for how you "Rose"

after the fall. Your comeback is your true identity.

2. Become a Light for Others

If someone pulled you out of the darkness, it is now your responsibility to be the "Light" for someone else. "Akhtarraz Hub" is more than a business, and this book is more than just words—it is my legacy. I want every reader to learn that being someone's "Support System" in their darkest hour is the greatest reward this life offers.

3. Success: The Silent Journey

Today, I am the same Akhtarraz, but with a renewed spirit. I have learned that true strength is not found in anger, but in "Patience" and "Resilience." My success will now be the answer to those who once doubted me. My legacy is that I never gave up, because I had a "Light" that refused to let me stay down.

Deep Thought for the Reader:

"Your legacy is not what you leave for people, it is what you leave IN people. Be the reason someone believes in the goodness of humanity and the power of a second chance

The Final Word:

"Success is not the end, and failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue—fueled by the belief of a single soul—that defines a Legend."

Author's Closing Note: A Heartfelt Farewell

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all the readers who took the time to read this book. I wrote this not just to tell my story, but to ignite a spark of motivation in every heart that feels lost. My goal was to show that no matter how deep the shadows, light is always within reach. As I mentioned before, I have chosen to keep the identity of the "**cariñoso Light**" who illuminated my world a sacred secret. I wish to shield that person from the noise of the world. However, I have one final request for all of you:

Hold these lessons close to your heart.

If you are ever fortunate enough to find such a "Light" in your own life—someone who stands by you when the world turns away—cherish them. Protect them, value them, and never let

them go. Never give them a reason to be unhappy, for the souls who guide us through the darkness are rare and divine blessings.

Thank you for being part of my journey.

Sincerely, Akhtarraz

DARKNESS TO LIGHT

A profound journey of self-discovery and transformation. Akhtar Raz guides readers from the shadowed valleys of despair towards the radiant sun-drenched peaks of hope and enlightenment. This deeply personal and inspiring narrative explores the courage needed to embrace change and the power of light over darkness. A must-read for anyone seeking purpose and clarity.

ISBN 978-0-123456-78-9
9 780123 456789

AKHTAR RAZ